

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

/061 W

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R 062129Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5424

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN

SUBJECT: ANDEAN PACT: IMPARTIALITY OF JUNTA OFFICIALS

REF: LIMA 4471

1. IN AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVE THE THREE JUNTA MEMBERS SENT A TELEGRAM TO THE DIRECTOR OF "LA REPUBLICA" IN BOGOTA IN PROTEST OF AN EDITORIAL IN THAT PAPER. THE TELEGRAM WAS ALSO GIVEN TO THE LOCAL PRESS. THE "LA REPUBLICA" EDITORIAL SPOKE OF A "NOTORIOUS LACK OF NEUTRALITY" ON THE PART OF THE ANDEAN PACT FUNCTIONARIES.

2. THE JUNTA'S TELEGRAM READS IN PART AS FOLLOWS: "WE DO NOT CONSIDER OURSELVES INFALLIBLE AND IT IS POSSIBLE AND PROBABLY THAT WE HAVE ERRED MANY TIMES IN THE PURSUIT OF OUR DUTIES. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT ACCEPT, BUT MUST REJECT WITH INDIGNATION, THE ABSOLUTELY UNJUSTIFIED CHARGE THAT WE ARE GUILTY OF 'NOTORIOUS LACK OF NEUTRALITY'. WE SUBMIT OUR CONDUCT TO ANALYSIS BY SUB-REGIONAL AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LATIN AMERICAN OPINION, ASSURED THAT OUR NAMES WILL

REMAIN AS CLEAN AS THEY WERE THE MOMENT WE ASSUMED OUR FUNCTIONS."

3. SALAZAR, SALGADO AND LLUCH HAVE BEEN IN THEIR POSITIONS AS JUNTA MEMBERS FOR OVER FIVE YEARS. NONE HAS THE REPUTATION AMONG THE JUNTA'S OWN STAFF OF BEING PARTIAL ON GROUNDS OF NATIONALITY.

4. THE POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF A JUNTA OFFICIAL, OF COURSE, MAY ALSO INFLUENCE HIS ACCEPTABILITY ON THE PART OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES. GUSTAVO FERNANDEZ, WHO HAD STARTED TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS APPOINTMENT AS A JUNTA MEMBER FOR THE NEXT TERM, REPORTEDLY RECEIVED A NEGATIVE SIGNAL FROM CHILE. FERNANDEZ, A BOLIVIAN NATIONAL, IS THE HEAD OF THE JUNTA'S LEGAL DIVISION AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN DESIGNING DECISION 24. DURING DISCUSSION OF CHILEAN DECREE-LAW 600 AT THE NOVEMBER 1974 COMMISSION MEETING, HE SERIOUSLY ANTAGONIZED THE CHILEANS.

5. THE EMOTIONAL RESPONSE OF THE JUNTA TO THE "LA REPUBLICA" EDITORIAL IS AN ADDITIONAL INDICATION OF THE FRUSTRATION AND TENSION WHICH MARK THE CURRENT ANDEAN PACT SITUATION. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL, ALL THREE JUNTA MEMBERS HAVE PRIVATELY INDICATED THAT THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN SERVING A THIRD TERM.
DEAN

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